

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-19 (canceled).

20. (new) Aluminium alloy exhibiting high strength and low quench sensitivity comprising

4.6	to	5.2	wt.% Zn
2.6	to	3.0	wt.% Mg
0.1	to	0.2	wt.% Cu
0.05	to	0.2	wt.% Zr
max.		0.05	wt.% Mn
max.		0.05	wt.% Cr
max.		0.15	wt.% Fe
max.		0.15	wt.% Si
max.		0.10	wt.% Ti

the remainder being impurities due to the manufacturing process, individually at maximum 0.05 wt.%, in total at maximum 0.15 wt.%.

21. (new) Aluminium alloy according to claim 20, comprising 4.6 to 4.8 wt.% Zn.

22. (new) Aluminium alloy according to claim 21, comprising 2.6 to 2.8 wt.% Mg.

23. (new) Aluminium alloy according to claim 22, comprising 0.10 to 0.15 wt.% Cu.

24. (new) Aluminium alloy according to claim 23, comprising 0.08 to 0.18 wt.% Zr.

25. (new) Aluminium alloy according to claim 24, including a maximum concentration of 0.03 wt.% Mn.

26. (new) Aluminium alloy according to claim 24, including a maximum concentration of 0.02 wt.% Cr.

27. (new) Aluminium alloy according to claim 24, including a maximum concentration of 0.12 wt.% Fe.

28. (new) Aluminium alloy according to claim 24, including a maximum concentration of 0.12 wt.% Si.

29. (new) Aluminium alloy according to claim 24, including a maximum concentration of 0.05 wt.% Ti.

30. (new) Process for manufacturing plates having a thickness up to 300 mm out of an aluminium alloy according to claim 20, comprising the steps of:

(a) continuous casting the aluminium alloy as an ingot with a thickness greater than 300 mm,

(b) heating the ingot at a maximum heating rate of 20°C/h between 170 and 410°C to a temperature of 470 to 490°C,

(c) homogenising the ingot for an interval of 10 to 14 h at a temperature of 470 to 490°C,

(d) hot rolling the homogenised ingot to plate,

(e) cooling the plate from a temperature of 400 to 410°C

to a temperature of less than 100°C, and

(f) artificially age-hardening the plate.

31. (new) Process for manufacturing plates having a thickness of greater than 300 mm out of an aluminium alloy according to claim 20, comprising the steps of:

(a) continuous casting the aluminium alloy as an ingot with a thickness greater than 300 mm,

(b) heating the ingot at a maximum heating rate of 20°C/h between 170 and 410°C to a temperature of 470 to 490°C,

(c) homogenising the ingot for an interval of 10 to 14 h at a temperature of 470 to 490°C,

(d) cooling the ingot to an intermediate temperature of 400 to 410°C,

(e) cooling the ingot from the intermediate temperature of 400 to 410°C to a temperature below 100°C,

(f) further cooling the ingot to room temperature,

(g) artificially age-hardening the ingot, and

(h) forming the artificially age-hardened ingot into the plate.

32. (new) Process according to claim 31, wherein the cooling of the ingot from the homogenisation temperature of 470 - 490°C to the intermediate temperature of 400 - 410°C takes place in still air.

33. (new) Process according to claim 11 or 12, wherein the cooling of the ingot from the intermediate temperature of 400 - 410°C to a temperature below 100°C takes place by forced air cooling.

34. (new) Process according to claim 11 or 12, wherein the cooling of the ingot from the intermediate temperature of 400 - 410°C to a temperature below 100°C takes place in a water-air-mist spray.

35. (new) Process according to claim 11 or 12, wherein the artificial age-hardening is carried out, after storage at room temperature, in a first heat-treatment at a first temperature, followed by a second heat-treatment at a second temperature which is higher than the first temperature.

36. (new) Process according to claim 35, including the steps of:

- (1) 1 - 30 days storage at room temperature,
- (2) 6 - 10 h at a temperature of 90 - 100°C, and
- (3) 8 - 22 h at a temperature of 150-160°C.

37. (new) Process according to claim 36, wherein the artificial age-hardening is carried out resulting in a heat-treatment condition T76.